



SOUTHEAST NEWS

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“Room at God’s Table for All Children”: May 31-June 2, 1996 Annual Meeting

The above title is our theme for the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting. *Dr. Allison Phillips & Rev. Mary Miller Brueggemann* are our keynoters for this Meeting. Both Dr. Phillips and Rev. Brueggemann are 21st-century visionaries and are actively involved in living the faith journey. We are grateful that they will be sharing in the leadership for our Conference Annual Meeting.

We will gather at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee in the late afternoon of Friday, May 31st. The School of Theology will be our home for the next two days. Our meetings and meals will be in Craven Hall, our lodging in Quintard (air-conditioned) and Gorgas (bring fan). Everything scheduled is in easy walking distance and the campus is truly beautiful. Also, we are up in altitude, so we will be a few degrees cooler than the Chattanooga area.

We have a wonderful opportunity this year of choosing our next Conference Minister. The Search Committee has completed its task; the Board has met and in harmony with the Search Committee is recommending the committee’s choice of candidate to you. He is the Rev. Dr. Timothy Downs and will be present at the Annual Meeting beginning Friday. The Search Committee report and biographical information about Dr. Downs are inside this edition.

... Let’s all gather and fellowship together with GOD and one another!

Whitemans to Serve in

Marshall Islands/Micronesia

Having been appointed as missionaries by the common Global Ministries Board of the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Rev. Karl K. Whiteman and his wife, Jan, were commissioned at First United Church in Belvidere, TN, Saturday, May 4, 1996. Karl and Jan will serve as missionaries to the Marshall Islands and the Federates States of Micronesia (in the south central Pacific Ocean—about 2300 miles W/SW of Hawaii).

Karl has been pastor/teacher at First United in Belvidere since July of 1993. Both he and Jan have been active on the Conference level and Karl has also been serving at national level as well. During this three-year appointment Karl will serve as the liaison pastor for the Micronesia Council of the United Church of Christ. He will be working administratively and ecumenically with church leaders of our partner churches in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the State of Kosrae, the State of Pohnpei (Ponape), and the State of Chuuk (Truk) in the Federated States of Micronesia. Karl will also serve as director of continuing education for these 4 island groups, providing theological and biblical teaching/training to local pastors. Jan will serve as an elementary school teacher in Majuro, Marshall Islands, where they will be living. The Whitemans will arrive in the Marshall Islands on June 7, 1996.

First United Church in Belvidere will be “home church” for the Whitemans. Karl and Jan hope to develop a “formal/official” United Church Board for World Ministries/Division of Overseas Ministries missionary relationship with a number of congregations in the Southeast Conference. The Conference Office has received official word that both Belvidere First and Pleasant Hill Community have already established such a relationship. Perhaps there are others who would wish to act on this. If so, UCBWM Corporate Board members Rev. John Gill (pastor, Knoxville, Church of the Savior), Ms. Vanessa Robbs (Chattanooga, Pilgrim UCC), Rev. Rodney Franklin (pastor, Birmingham First Congregational) can give you information—or you may call Ms. Ginny Sielert at the Office for Missionary Relationships (317/635-3100). The Whitemans hope to visit and share their story around the Southeast Conference in the summer of 1999 through the Office for Missionary Relationships.

We in the Southeast Conference send our prayers and support to Karl and Jan as they begin this exciting new chapter in their lives. How special it is to have those who have served us in the Southeast Conference go into the world as global missionaries, for our love goes with them and a part of us touches lives beyond our seeing as they share their love with the people in the Marshall Islands/Micronesia area. Put them on your daily prayer list! Their permanent address will be 558 Whip-Poor-Will Drive, Sebring, FL 33872-6251 (mail will be forwarded). After July 1, the Conference Office will have their overseas address.

CONFERENCE MINISTER: *ED-ITORIAL*

FAREWELL! This does not only mean "God-be-with-you," but decidedly expresses the hope and prayer that you all will FARE WELL!! Together we have shared the gospel of reconciliation, the Good News of Jesus Christ, seeking to upbuild one another and to share the realm of God's kingdom. It has been my effort to bring us together for the sake of our salvation and for the sake of God's mission in Southeast Conference. Let the heap of labor that I have performed with and amongst you be the encouragement and inspiration for even better things to come for the churches of Southeast Conference and for Southeast Conference itself. May the work of reconciliation have been affective enough to move you with new power into a new place in your Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ. So I say with Jacob and Laban, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." Therefore he named it Galeed, and the pillar Mizpah, for he said, "The Lord watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other ... God is witness between you and me." God shall remain the bridge between us despite the distance of many miles. Now that we will not see you in person you will have taken up residence in our hearts and that will cheer us on our future way as we recall the memories you have blest us with! Our times of worship, conversations, discussions, problem-solving, and, of course, eating those wonderful meals with you, give us ample recollections to buoy us up on our faith pilgrimage for years to come!

Even as you have received us so warmly and accepted our ministry to and amongst you, so may you receive the new conference minister with the same empowering love you showed us which enabled us to serve you with enthusiasm and hopefully served you will. To make the new covenant a success, may I be so bold as to suggest the following response you need to make:

- 1) Pray for each other. Be truly reconciled.
- 2) Honor COVENANT amongst you (Dr. Moss' Covenant Statement).
- 3) Outdo each other in honoring one another. ("See how they love each other!")
- 4) Give heart, mind and soul to implement the new SEC structure.
- 5) Be more generous with Our Church's Wider Mission giving!
- 6) Offer greater commitment to new church development.
- 7) Support the SEC Retreat Center—"The SEC Household."
- 8) Heighten the concern for justice and peace—at home first and then ...
- 9) To love each other is to hold each other accountable!
- 10) Enliven your cluster groups—invite you to have Clusterphobia!
- 11) Establish a youth program with a summer camp experience for every age.
- 12) Be proud of the United Church of Christ—the only denomination that celebrates both these attributes: autonomy in governance and beliefs!!

May this decalogue of challenges be addressed and bring a fuller life to this great Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

I close my final word to you with the following quotes:

"Wisely enough, God does not let us skip ahead in the story of our lives, but rather leads us page by page to its understandable conclusion in Him ... And so, as each one of us faces an uncertain future, we can trust in God's promise as expressed by Jeremiah, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "They are plans for good and not for evil, to give a future and a hope." Pann Baltz

Or again,

"When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ

and Him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, SO THAT your FAITH might not rest on men's wisdom, But on GOD'S POWER."

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

As my mother always said when we parted, "I love you. Don't forget God!" So say we to you!! Yes, and perhaps in the mist of tomorrow our paths will cross again. Until then, know that you have taken up residence in our hearts. Our hearth will likewise be open to you. In fact, we would be honored to have you drop in at

4054 Coltwood Drive,

Spring, Texas 77388.

Phone us and we'll be ready—713/350-1483.

Friends always—

Dona & Ed

Moments of In-Between Times

Edwin & Dona Mehlhaff, 3/7/1996

Like any great symphony

our lives have pregnant pause

Passage times come in greater quantity

as we grow older

First, retirement from full-time ministry

a ten-month respite period

Then, a thirteen-month service

as Interim Conference Minister,

Southeast Conference, UCC.

Now, back to retirement

a period of rest and reflection

Who knows what next?

after this in-between time

God has a way of leading us

when we least expect it

Another door opens

*and beckons us to enter
What new surprises await us?*

*As we await the breaking of dawn
over the next horizon
We shall enjoy children and grandchildren
sharing times together
Of laughter, joys and tears
too quickly will pass the years
We will kiss the joy that flies
and revel in God's grace and goodness!*

*The years have come and gone
But I can sing with the hymnist
"Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn,
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:
Take My Hand, Precious Lord, Lead Me Home!*

United Church Board for Homeland Ministries Robert L. Burt Resigns

Bob Burt has served as General Secretary for the Division of Evangelism and Local Church Development for 28 years. They have been 28 years of faithful service filled with many gifts. We join with other conferences in thanking Bob for "walking the path" as General Secretary of DELCD and we celebrate those years with him. Bob's active ministry in this position will close on April 30, 1996.

UCBHM Seeks Applicants

United Church Board for Homeland Ministries seeks a general secretary for the Division of Evangelism and Local Church Development (DELCD). The successful candidate shall be the executive head of the DELCD and with the Executive Vice President and other senior colleagues

responsible for the wisdom and effectiveness of the UCBHM's total program with particular responsibility for development and administration of the UCBHM's commitment to evangelism and the development of local churches in the United Church of Christ.

Application deadline is August 15, 1996. For position description and application information, contact: The Rev. Thomas E. Dipko, Executive Vice President, UCBHM, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

Global Christianity

In the year 1900, 80% of all Christians in the world live in Europe, Canada and the United States. In the year 2000, 67% of all Christians in the world will live in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

For a long time, many of us in North America have believed that we live in a Christian culture. And historically, many in the U.S. and Canada have maintained that our culture is the best in the world. Perhaps both assertions need to be challenged.

Today, in many ways, God seems to have been shoved to the sidelines in the mainstream culture of North America. The computer has replaced the God of Wisdom. Biomedicine assumes the role of the Giver and Taker of life. Too often we invest our security in money and possessions rather than in the Divine. Though we struggle to be faithful, our culture resists Gospel values.

Maybe we have become too accustomed to our affluence and comfort. Perhaps we believe too firmly in technology and efficiency thereby causing us to distance ourselves from the spiritual. Or, could it be that our society's stress on individualism has eroded our sense of community and the corporate people of God?

For centuries, churches in North America have extended Christianity to Asia, Africa, and Latin America. And today there are strong, growing and independent churches throughout the world. At the same time, mainline churches in the U.S.A. and Canada have lost membership, social relevance and power.

Many of us are experiencing a spiritual crisis in our churches and in our culture. One way in which we might deepen our spirituality is to open

ourselves to recognize, respect and receive the gifts of faith from Christians living in other cultures.

Together we can become the one body of Christ.

People in Africa are becoming Christians faster than the rate of population increase ... In southern Korea there are more Christians per person than in any country in the world ... In Jamaica there are more churches per square mile than anywhere on God's earth ... During the past century the center of Christianity has shifted dramatically from the northern to the southern hemisphere.

Most of the world's people live in poverty, oppression and social injustice. In their struggles for dignity and justice, Christians throughout the world seek God's guidance. And in the reliance upon God, their faith is strengthened. Though Christians in many parts of the world are materially poor, they are spiritually rich. Their gifts of faith can enrich Christians in wealthier societies experiencing spiritual poverty.

Around the world Christianity is practiced in a diversity of cultures, each unique and significant. All can share their special resources while embodying the oneness of Jesus Christ. Through church-to-church partnerships, we Christians in North America can experience directly the faith and witness of Christians from other continents.

Exchanging resources can demonstrate our common commitment to peace and justice throughout the world. Together we can strengthen bonds of unity and friendship across economic and racial barriers which separate us.

Together we can live in the spirit of the global church.

Congratulations, Connecticut Conference

Congratulations to the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ and to the Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree who will begin work as its new conference minister on July 15, 1996. Although Rev. Crabtree is currently serving as conference minister of the Southern California/Nevada Conference, she grew up in the Connecticut Conference, so she will be returning home as she begins this new venture in her ministry. The Conference search committee worked long and hard for two years to develop its profile, advertise and read responses,

interview candidates and make its selection. Those in the Southeast Conference who served on our own search committee for conference minister can truly appreciate its efforts!

Report of the Conference Minister Search Committee

The Conference Minister Search Committee brought an enthusiastic and unanimous recommendation of the Rev. Dr. Timothy Downs as nominee for Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ to the March Board of Directors meeting. After nearly a year of intense work developing as diverse a field of qualified candidates as possible, the Search Committee met in February to interview four people. Dr. Downs emerged clearly as the best-qualified person. The son of missionaries to Thailand, Dr. Downs has pastored churches for over 18 years and currently serves St. John's United Church of Christ in Allentown, PA.

Dr. Downs and his wife, Carol Kobayashi, were presented to the Board at the March meeting for a time of conversation and getting acquainted, after which the Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the recommendation of the Search Committee. When asked what attracted him to the Southeast Conference, Dr. Downs replied in part, "The proposed Conference reorganization impresses me as thoughtful and appropriate to the times we are about to enter. I see an earnest effort to respect the local church as the 'basic unit of mission,' and to make resources available to equip the congregations—and to assure the presence of the Conference to its congregations in faithful ways. We are a theologically diverse and rich heritage, ecumenically rooted, a tradition which understands that Christians cannot say to one another, 'I have no need of you.' I feel that diversity deepens and strengthens all of us when we are truly open to one another. I am excited about the diversity of the Southeast Conference, its vision for the future, and the challenges these represent."

Dr. Downs brings a wealth of experience and personal gifts. We feel extremely fortunate that he is open to accepting a call to serve as our next

Conference Minister. Dr. Downs and his wife, Carol, will be attending the Conference Annual Meeting in Sewanee, Tennessee, May 31-June 2. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this historic meeting which will include the opportunity to elect Dr. Downs as our next Conference Minister.

Barbara Everett and Milton Hurst, Co-Chairs
Lawrence Calbert, Sr., Arthur Dailey, James Myers, Holly Nelson,
Frederika Preacher, and Bill Tweed, members

Meet the Rev. Dr. Timothy Downs

Nominee for Conference Minister

Dr. Downs was born November 9, 1946, the son of Presbyterian missionaries to Thailand. He received his B.A. from Macalester College in 1969 majoring in Political Science and International Studies, then went on to earn a Doctor of Ministry degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in 1974. He is married to Carol Kobayashi and they have two sons, Christopher (15) and Andrew (12).

Since 1985 Dr. Downs has been serving as pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ in Allentown, Pennsylvania. St. John's is a center-city congregation of 450 members currently refocusing its ministries to address the rapid social/economic changes in an increasingly multicultural center city. On the Conference level, Dr. Downs has served as stewardship association since 1990 and as a member of the Board of Directors as well as chair of the Business Committee. Since 1992 he has also chaired the Commission on Ecumenism.

In his statement of ministry, Dr. Downs describes the church as a "blessed communion," where we are opened to God's touch of grace and opened to promise of transformation within our lives as a people of God ... a community which wipes the tears and listens to the sorrows that mark our lives ... I have come to understand the local congregation as a place in which people gather to heal, to be strengthened, and to be equipped for the 'living of these days' ... I believe that a congregation will find renewed vitality and life by discovering its mission and vision."

His references refer to him as: "... an outstanding leader ... combines strong conviction with a willingness and ability to listen well to others ... blessed with a sense of humor that puts tension in perspective ... maintains and encourages respect for church tradition and the history out of which folks come ... a person of prodigious energy and balanced judgment, a humane but decisive administrator, and a spiritual leader who—is able to speak the truth in love."

On multicultural diversity Tim says: "I was raised in the heart of cultural diversity ... until my college years ... married to a woman with a Japanese surname ... the daughter of an Austrian immigrant mother who fled the Holocaust and a Japanese-German-American father. We chose to live in a center-city neighborhood ... our children attend inner-city public schools in which the majority of the children are from Spanish-speaking families, most live below poverty level ... Currently, I chair a committee organizing an effort in cooperation with Moravian Theological Seminary to gather people of faith from diverse traditions to discuss controversial issues that have divided us, including abortion, capital punishment, sexuality, and affirmative action."

The following excerpts are from Tim's answer when asked "What attracts you to the Southeast Conference?": "... these are challenging times for all of us in the UCC ... a time for us to begin to reshape our responses to ministry at all levels. I am impressed that the Southeast Conference has begun this process of reshaping and reorganizing. The proposed Conference reorganization impresses me as thoughtful and appropriate to the times we are about to enter. I see an earnest effort to respect the local church as the 'basic unit of mission,' and to make resources available to equip the congregations. I see the building of a greater sense of belonging to one another, and the proposal to assure the presence of the Conference to its congregations in faithful ways ... We are part of a theologically diverse and rich heritage, ecumenically rooted, a tradition which understands that Christians cannot say to one another, 'I have no need of you' ... It is clear from the profile of the Southeast Conference that the Conference is culturally, racially, and theologically diverse. I have always welcomed the opportunity to work in the midst of differences because I feel that diversity deepens and strengthens all of us when we are truly open to one another."

The full report from the Search Committee as well as a complete 5-page bio on Dr. Downs including his work experiences and his continuing educational experiences will be in the packet of information picked up at registration time at the Annual Meeting.

Five of Our Own “Missioned” in Venezuela

Submitted by Susan Rice

Five members of UCC churches in the Southeast Conference participated in mission work in Venezuela during March 1996: Bill Tweed (LaGrange United), Rip Hardman (Lanett Congregational Christian), Chris Hester (Roanoke Antioch), Louise Cox (LaFayette Pleasant Grove), and Susan Rice (Birmingham Pilgrim). All of us worked with SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology), which has its headquarters in Lineville, Alabama. SIFAT has a training campus called El Renuevo in rural Venezuela near the Columbian border. On March 15, Bill, Rip, Chris and Louise traveled to the El Renuevo campus where the men became part of a construction team, working on many projects. They built one wall and did electrical work on a new church plus other jobs on the campus. Louise (“Mama Louise” as she is known in Venezuela) cooked and took care of everyone. The following week a medical team traveled to El Renuevo of dentists, physicians, nurses, Susan Rice, a nurse-midwife (Louise joined us at this point). We spent three days seeing patients in makeshift clinics set up in churches. People traveled from all over the Plains areas of Venezuela to be seen. More than 400 people were treated each day. The most common health problems result from poor nutrition and a lack of clean drinking water, so the team spent time doing health education. The most important contribution of the health team was trust building so that SIFAT can continue its work in these communities. THE UCC WAS WELL REPRESENTED!!!

ANNUAL REPORTS:

From the Conference Minister

It was on May 2nd, 1995, that Dona and I arrived in Atlanta to begin the interim position. It hardly seems possible that I am ending my thirteen-month ministry amongst and with you!! They say 'time flies when you're having fun.' I must admit, we have had great fun but also enjoyed a great work with you! God has been so good to all of us.

I have not only maintained the routines of being conference minister but have been proactive in serving you. I have meaningfully visited all but 10 congregations in the Conference. We enjoyed numerous clergy conversation gatherings. To enhance communication I sent out four pastoral packets to all clergy: those in the parish, those in non-parish ministries, and, to the retired in our Conference—those with standing and those without. We wanted all clergy to be in the loop of 'what's happening.' I've actively assisted several congregations in pastoral placement, stewardship development, goal setting, leadership development, preached every Sunday plus two four-night revivals, and, did considerable troubleshooting. I also counseled with many pastors and laity. Commission and committee meetings were in moderate amounts. Met regularly with Church and Ministry committees. Attended national meetings on the behalf of the Conference and provided leadership at the same. We spent considerable time around the Retreat Center development and matters concerning the restructuring of the Conference. Numerous items of correspondence were an ever-present challenge, as were countless phone calls. We had no want for work to do!! But, you know what? I enjoyed every moment of it!!

Please note that last issue of the *Southeast News* for the challenges I make to the Conference that its future may be one of significant mission and faithfulness to the call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! These challenges are not made lightly—they are challenges that need to be met for the good of the Conference and its congregations.

Do things at times seem chaotic? I picked this up in a newsletter that recently arrived at my office. In the last twenty years a new science has been born. It is a study of CHAOS. Classical science concentrated on understanding orderliness. Chaos science studies disorderliness. Many in the scientific community were awe-struck when they discovered that disorderliness, like orderliness, obeys rules of behavior and can be described mathematically. Classical science understood chaos as a

creative process producing pockets of orderliness, generating rich complexity, producing richly organized patterns. Some patterns are stable and lasting (orderly). Some are unstable and short-lived (disorderly).

Example: "It's well known that the heart has to be largely regular or you die. But the brain has to be largely irregular; if not you have epilepsy. This shows that irregularity, chaos, leads to complex systems. It's not at all disorder. On the contrary, I would say chaos is what makes life and intelligence possible. The brain has been selected to become so unstable that the smallest effect can lead to the formation of order. " (James Gleick's *Chaos Making A New Science*)

I wonder, is this the meaning behind words from scripture that give some insight into the place of the Holy Spirit? "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." Or, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Chaos, not knowing where you are or what is may be the very locus out of which the new comes: "And the one seated on the throne said, 'See I am making all things new ...'"

So, claim the chaos around you as the hotbed for new possibilities. Don't sit down in frustration and despair. The best to come is in the chaos. "To travel in a wilderness, not knowing what is next, is not to be lost. To lose view of the last known landmark, to go beyond the edge of the map, is not to be lost. Only he is lost who sits down in despair, wherever he is, and will venture no more to go anywhere at all." (Carolyn Schunter, *Jacob's Well*)

Claimed by the Spirit—Alive to Vision! James Thurber once advised: "Let us not look back in anger, or forward in fear, but let us look around in awareness." God is calling Southeast Conference into a new and greater future. May you respond to that beckoning!!

Dona and I say, "God-be-with-you." Where we have touched your lives with God's grace, we thank God. Where we have caused undue hurt, we ask forgiveness from you and from God. We came amongst you to upbuild and not to destroy. May we all be more whole because we have lived together for these thirteen months, serving one another and thereby serving God.

Individuals, churches, and events will parade across the screen of our memory as we once more retire and reflect upon our journey together. Those will be pleasant moments. Smiles will cross our face and we will, again and again, say “Thank you, God” for the wonderful people of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, for the enrichment they brought to our lives!!

I’m most grateful to the excellent leadership in this Conference: Dick Sales, Conference Board chairman; Nan Wright, indispensable assistant to the conference minister—a grand plus to our Conference operations; Betty Ann Daniell, part-time secretary; and many of you significant, informed leaders in our beloved Conference!
THANKS!!

Edwin Mehlhaff
Interim Conference Minister

Report of the Moderator

Each year the Moderator reports on the progress of the Conference. In this year some of the reporting is easy. In this year some of the reporting is easy. Your Conference Minister Search Committee has found a candidate for the position of Conference Minister, some important changes to the Southeast Conference Constitution and By-Laws have been proposed, progress has been made on the feasibility of having a Conference retreat and conference center, and as we come to the Annual Meeting, there is a definite air of accomplishment and achievement.

But I want to spend more time speaking about someone who has helped us during this “time between.” I refer to that ball of energy who goes by the name of Edwin Mehlhaff. He arrived last year at the time of the Annual Meeting and he plans to go after this year’s meeting. During the year he has given us each a picture of the sort of dynamism and energy that the Southeast Conference requires of a dedicated conference minister.

For many clergy Ed has been the catalyst for the first genuine meetings together we have had in years. Because he literally took the bone in his own teeth, and came to various places for conversations, we

have seen that such meetings can happen and that when they do, it is a grand thing.

As a caretaker, he might have spent a fair amount of time filing and sorting. Fortunately, Nan Wright turns out to be quite capable of filling that (and several other) slots, and Ed has, often with Dona, who seems as indefatigable as Ed, been seeing us in the flesh, bringing a Conference presence to every church he can reach. It may be that there are other patterns of pastoring that suit a conference like ours. There probably are, but before he ups and goes, I want to go on record saying that Ed has made us feel a warmth we have lacked, and given the Conference a smiling, fun fact. God bless you, Ed, in the days to come.

Annual Report for Commission on Women in Church & Society

Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown, Chair

United Church of Christ Women in our Southeast Conference are women in mission ... women engaged in reaching out to others to share Christ's love in concrete ways in their churches, communities and beyond. They are also women concerned with justice for all. The Commission on Women in Church and Society seeks to provide resources and programs for churches and leaders dealing with women's concerns and issues in the light of the Gospel.

This has been a very full year for the Commission, including: One major commissioning meeting, with great commitment and energy on the part of all, as well as numerous written communications and phone calls. Planning our next Southeast Conference Women's Retreat, Sept. 20-22, 1996 at Shocco Springs, Talladega, AL. The theme is "For Such a Time as This" (Esther 4:14). Linda Petrucelli of United Church Board for World Ministries is keynote speaker. Plan to attend. An inspiring and challenging Southern Regional Women's Retreat at Blowing Rock, NC, Sept. 30-Oct. 2; theme, "Winds of the Spirit;" keynoter, Rev. Mary Susan Gast of the Coordinating Center for Women; attendance, over 200 women, 50 of them Southeast Conference folk.

June 27-30, 1996, some of our Southeast Conference women will attend the Third National UCC Women's Meeting in Boston, MA on "Visions and Voices."

Three outstanding laywomen, chosen by our Commission, were honored by General Synod XX in Oakland, CA: Lala Allen of LaFayette, AL; Audrey Livingston of Knoxville, TN; and Clara Lowe of Atlanta, GA. A number of our churches celebrated UCC Women's Week, Feb. 4-10. Copies of *Common Lot*, with creative worship and program suggestions, were available through the Conference Office. EAL/WGA Association Women's Fellowship held their Annual Retreat at SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology) in August and learned of their ministry.

Their Spring Rally, in April, focused on mission projects in Venezuela, with Louise Cox as speaker. The AL/TN Association Women's Committee held two planning meetings during the year and discussed future events. The GA/SC Association Women's Committee continued its survey assessing program needs of women in the Atlanta area.

The Women's Mite, Kathryn Robinson, Chair, received gifts (suggested five cents per day per person—\$18.15 per year) and distributed scholarship aid for women to attend leadership events. Efforts were made to improve communications about women's concerns and programs. One aspect—submitting articles regularly for the *Southeast News*.

Efforts continue to increase the number of women in leadership positions in all settings of our Church. All women and/or women's groups are urged to become partners in United Church of Christ Women in Mission (UCCWM) and regularly receive *Common Lot* and a variety of other resources.

Women of our Conference have studied the Beijing United Nations Women's Conference and addressed issues such as violence against women, sexual harassment, women in prison, etc. Please contact the Women's Commission with questions, suggestions or offers of help in regard to any concern or program.

Quips for Fun:

From Columbia, Covenant UCC ...

who got it from Charleston ... submitted by Edna Brown: "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. A good time to get rid of things not worth keeping and too good to throw away. Bring your husbands!"

From Pleasant Hill ...

Ed Schneider's column: "I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."

Church Development & Evangelism Commission Annual Report

Ed Schneider, Chair

The task of the Church Development and Evangelism Commission is to aid in the establishment of new churches, the renewal of existing churches who experience a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit in their midst and the relocation of churches who feel led to a new place for a new ministry.

The Commission works toward these ends in conjunction with the Division of Evangelism and Local Church Development of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries (UCBHM). They are an important source of experience and expertise; also, they provide most of the funds where appropriate.

Important as that association may be it is a distant second to the primary relationship, namely, God's people, gathered by the call of the Spirit situated in local community. There is no new church, no church to renew or to relocate without a community of believers gathered together ready to give time, energy and money to the church. The foundation of the Church is Jesus Christ. The people are the living stones of which the Church is built. And this comes together around a leader who is spiritually alert, energetic, committed to the Church and oriented to the ministry of building the body of Christ. By the grace of God there are such people!

On December 1 & 2, 1995, there was a gathering of leaders at Trinity Church in Jonesboro, GA, from several churches that are in various stages

of development. Steve Gifford, Division of Evangelism and Local Church Development, UCBHM, was the resource person for the session. It proved to meet the need for support and sense of being part of the larger Church felt by people who are in these new situations.

In Columbia, SC, there is a faith community gathered under the leadership of the Rev. Nancy Donny, funded by UCBHM exploring the possibility for a new church start. There is a similar exploration with funding taking place in Macon, GA. The Heart of Georgia is the name taken by the small group of faithful gathering each Sunday under the leadership of Lester Ariail. Sheares Memorial Church, Chattanooga, continues to meet in pursuit of their vision of the type of church needed in their city. In Peachtree City, GA roots are being developing for a new church start under the leadership of Rob Heckathorne. There are other situations at various level of renewal and development that keep in touch with the Conference.

The association Church Development and Evangelism committees do a valuable service and their close connections place them in an advantageous position for all of these efforts. We are indebted to Ed Mehlhaff for his initiative, leadership and untiring efforts in the area of church growth. Commission members: Flora Wilson Bridges, Jeannie Harry, at-large members, plus association committee chairpersons.

Commission on Christian Social Justice Annual Report, June 1996

Dorothy Gager, chair

The Commission on Christian Social Justice, composed of at-large members and the chairs of the association committees on Christian Social Justice, has continued its efforts to inform and unite those within the Southeast Conference who are interested in matters of Christian social justice. This is achieved mainly by the publication of the *Social Justice Networker* which is distributed to those with an expressed interest in such issues.

In addition, the Commission acts as steward for the portions of the Hunger Action and Just Peace offerings that are retained on the

Conference level. Each spring, proposals are solicited and the Commission determines how to allocate the funds available. Checks are presented at the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting each spring.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

Louise Sallstrom, Chair

The Christian Education Commission held a Leadership Training Event Saturday, August 12, with workshops on acolyte training, confirmation class, curriculum, intergenerational leadership, liturgical dance, music, youth, and local church. The Rev. Gordon Svoboda, Minister for Education in Human Identity from the national office, led a plenary session.

In January, Louise began a newsletter, *The Lamplighter*, for the Commission members. Elizabeth Clement is now serving as Youth Coordinator for the Conference and we welcome her.

Below are the goals for the Christian Education Commission:

SHORT-TERM GOALS

1. Urge association Christian Education chairs to personally communicate with each church's Christian Education chairperson.
2. Provide each church a copy of *The Educational Mission of the United Church of Christ*, *Plan of Work for the Educational Mission of the United Church of Christ*, and *Planning the Church's Educational Mission in a Local Setting*.
3. Prepare *A Case for Christian Education*, containing a copy of each of the thirty-nine C.E. resources listed in the Resource List taken from the UCC publications booklet.
4. Seek intergenerational resources and make them available.
5. Prepare a file for successors in this office to have a job description.
6. Build community and a sense of responsibility within the Commission.
7. Attend association meetings and the Conference meeting in Tennessee.
8. Help promote the Youth Event in Columbia, S.C. this July.
9. Communicate with chairs of Women in Mission to help publicize events.

10. Promote the ideas of Christian Education as the life of the church.

LONG-RANGE GOALS

1. Keep all correspondence, reports, etc., for successors.
2. Establish a Christian Education file with multimedia resources.
3. Provide training opportunities for Christian Education leaders.
4. Plan, promote, and implement a mission project with and for youth which will be supported by adults to build community, ownership, and name recognition.

The Christian Education Commission has written two motions in resolution form to be presented at the Annual Meeting 1996. They are:

Motion 1:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RESOLUTION

"The Church as the body of Christ is a sign of healing and hope in a broken world. As members of that body we have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation, and made stewards of the mysteries of God."

II Corinthians 5:19 and I Corinthians 4:1

"We preach Christ crucified, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."

I Corinthians 1:23-24

There, in the cross of Christ, God reconciled the world to God's own self. At the darkest moment of human history, light is revealed, lives are transformed and reconciliation takes place.

Whereas all is not well with teaching in the Church ...

Whereas the message of reconciliation and transformation is not heard, and its implications are not understood ...

Whereas the suffering of human existence remains unrelieved by grace and truth for too many ...

Whereas the Church, the churches, including many of the ministers, have lost touch with the language, symbols, and texts of faith ...

Whereas many persons reveal that they feel illiterate and inarticulate about their faith ...

Whereas there is great hunger in the human heart and among the peoples of the earth for meaning and purpose for their lives and for liberating truth and power ...

Whereas the Church is looked to by many for vision, direction, and courage ...

Whereas people long to know the scripture, to become articulate about faith, and to see more clearly the relationship between the gospel and the realities of the world ...

Whereas we recognize the urgent need of persons, churches, and institutions of the Church to rediscover the language of faith and to reclaim its transforming and reconciling power ...

Be it therefore resolved that ...

We call for renewed commitment to education that will equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12) and will address the urgent need for the transformation of persons and of our common life.

We seek an educational program in which EVERYONE is engaged in learning throughout life in a variety of settings.

We envision the reclaiming and reforming of the Church's educational mission, and the minister's historic office as teacher, and the committed partnership of the laity and the clergy in the teaching ministries of the Church.

We seek to publicize, promote, and encourage this vision through discussion, reflection, and action involving the whole United Church of Christ in the Southeast, its congregations and institutions, ministries and missions.

We call for dialogue as we seek the emerging vision and continuing reform of the educational mission of the UCC in the Southeast Conference this year (1996-1997) promising the use of our imagination and creativity as we are rooted in biblical and historic Christian faith, in the call to be disciples of Christ in the world and are more attuned to the fresh and transforming revelation of God in our time.

Motion 2:

(Everything is the same through "Be it therefore resolved that ..." the 1997 Annual Meeting will be devoted to celebrating the unique and

various ways that God has enabled God's own people to respond and be fulfilled through this discussion, reflection, and action.

Finance Committee Report

Steve Parker, Chair

As the Conference moved forward with its program and mission, the Finance Committee has moved to help strengthen the fiscal matters of the Southeast Conference. Under the watchful eye of our interim conference minister, Ed Mehlhaff, 1995 was a year of change. Much of this change I am happy to report was positive. As reported in last year's forecast, we anticipated a modest gain in our interest-bearing accounts. In fact, with the strength of the market during the last 12 months, the Ensminger, Designated, and Endowment funds increased by 21%, representing \$115,977 increase in dollar value. As impressive as they may seem, we witnessed yet another year of decline for OCWM contributions. The Finance Committee, along with our treasurer, Dave Speno, and our bookkeeper, Adrienne Laraway, kept a watchful eye on our income and expenses. It is hopeful that increased stewardship in 1996 and 1997 OCWM will result in an increase in contributions. Recently the Finance Committee engaged Hyatt, Imler, Ott, & Blount CPA to review and audit procedures previously done by Parry Lemmons & Associates. The Board of Directors has been more involved in the fiscal matters of the Conference as well. It is the desire to include the Board of Directors in all financial matters pertaining to the Southeast Conference. The Finance Committee is committed to improving our reporting methods as we move forward.

In closing, it is our hope that in 1996-97 OCWM contributions to the Conference will show significant signs of improvement. As we move forward in our mission, let us all remain faithful to our cause. As faithful stewards we each have a responsibility to share in the mission and the good works afforded by this Conference. Lastly, I want to express my thanks to each member of the Finance Committee for his/her diligence during this past year. A special thanks also to Nan Wright and Adrienne Laraway for their faithful service.

Commission on Church & Ministry

James Myers, Chair

At this Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference, we gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners in the service of Jesus Christ. First, we want to express our appreciation to all associations and persons for their continued support of the Church and Ministry Commission. Special thanks to Rev. Dan Rosemergy for planning a Clergy and Spouse Retreat at the DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN, which was cancelled at the last moment because of insufficient funds. We appreciate also the service of the Rev. Jack E. Yates, who served as our secretary.

We awarded two scholarships last year from the interest earned on the Southern Union Inc. Fund. The recipients were:

1. *Mr. Gary Myers*, student in Master of Divinity course, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, Birmingham, AL – scholarship for \$1200.00

2. *Chap. David P. Speno* – studying for Doctor of Theology in Pastoral Counseling, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA – scholarship for \$600.00. In addition, we send the Ensminger Fund interest money to Fisk University to be used for students there. In 1995 we sent a total of \$4,450.

The Commission concurs with the report of the Ethics Committee, which is chaired by the Reverend Holly Nelson. (condensed version shared as follows). *In April of 1995 seven persons met to discuss/propose a purpose/structure for an Ethics Committee for the Southeast Conference. This structure proposal includes an Ethics Committee (primarily education around issues of ethical concern, plus education of crisis response teams), consultation for clergy/churches facing difficult ethical situations, and three "crisis response teams" to support/enable the work of the association Church and Ministry committees. We are working to establish three crisis response teams: one based in TN, one in AL, one in GA. Rev. Fred Coulter (Knoxville) will be team leader for TN. Still looking for ones in GA and AL. Persons from Office for Church Life and Leadership will provide training; we need the persons to be trained, and the location (with overnight accommodations). We will keep you informed of our progress.*

In Continuing Education – as we reflect upon the problems of having a successful pastors and spouses retreat, the Commission agreed by consensus on these facts: the Commission should encourage associations to provide one-day workshops for pastors (subjects to be developed by associations); or urge the associations and the Conference to conduct clergy workshops a day or so before the Conference or association convenes. Through these methods, the Commission will try once again to develop a “true retreat” comprising worship, fellowship, spiritual development and recreation. We held a pre-retirement seminar this year, led by a representative of the Pension Board.

Aims for 1996:

1. Licensed minister procedures
2. Continued development of needs/assessments across Conference
 - a. Funding for continuing education
 - b. Restructure
 - c. Clergy in transition
 - d. Pastorate
 - e. Illness
 - f. Supportive role
 - g. Interim concerns and prep
3. Workshops and retreats
 - a. Workshops for pastors, in associations
 - b. Conference and association meeting-related workshops for clergy.
4. Development of Ethics Committee
 - a. Naming members
 - b. Hearing developmental report
 - c. Deciding next steps

Stewardship & OCWM

Robert Kurtz, Chairperson

“I have set the Lord always before me ... Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices; My body also will rest secure.”

—Psalm 16:8-9

Stewardship is a simple matter. Stewardship is putting God first. Stewardship of time, talent, and treasure is simply “setting the Lord always before ...”

This year, for instance, the nations on our small planet will spend nearly \$30,000 of their resources for one soldier while providing less than \$500 for the education of a child. Stewardship is putting God first. Stewardship is education about priorities.

In the United Church of Christ, we are facing a challenge. Declining membership means declining revenue for the ministries of our denomination and Conference. Do we simply plead for more money? Or do we prophetically cry out for a new commitment? These are the questions before us. Representatives of the Southeast Conference, your chairperson included, joined with UCCers from around the nation in an important gathering in Nashville. We addressed the challenges and opportunities. STEWARDSHIP MUST BE A PRIORITY. If stewardship again becomes the focus, then our churches and our Conference and the denomination are faithful for we are again putting God first.

Last spring, representatives from our Conference gathered at St. Simons Island, Georgia for the Graham Cluster assembly of the UCC. The Florida, Southern, South Central, Puerto Rico and Southeast conferences joined together to explore the deepest questions facing us in stewardship. The Amistad Church from our Conference was an inspiration. A tithing church challenges us all.

Our interim conference minister, the Reverend Ed Mehlhaff is to be commended. In all his visits to our churches, he places the challenge of stewardship clearly before the congregations. In the new era of leadership, we must commit ourselves to: SETTING THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE ... THEREFORE OUR HEARTS WILL BE GLAD.

Emmaus Homes, Inc. Annual Report

During this past year much has occurred at Emmaus Homes. New programs have been instituted, a new chaplain has joined us, a chapel has been refurbished, long-range planning has made significant strides and success stories surround us every day.

The Sensory Stimulation program initiated as alternatives means of communicating with six women with severe developmental disabilities. Remarkable progress—sensory stimulation increased and in some initiated voluntary movement—in others, expression of emotion was demonstrated and a need for self-stimulation decreased.

In August, Rev. Fred Sprenger came to the campus in Marthasville, as our new chaplain. For the prior 20 years, Fred worked with people with developmental disabilities and was UCC pastor of First Congregational Church in Redfield, South Dakota just prior to joining us.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the Marthasville volunteer auxiliary known as the Friends of Emmaus, and the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC, the historic chapel at Marthasville has a new coat of paint, inside and out! It shines like a beacon on its hilltop location.

Long-range planning made significant strides during the year. An *ad hoc* planning committee composed of board and staff members was created and met throughout the year. In November, a land use and facilities consulting firm was retained to aid in the development of a plan for the most effective use of all of Emmaus' physical resources.

Each and every day there are new stories of success on the campuses, in the group homes and in the many supported living units served by Emmaus. As our friends strive to be the very best they can, we are both thrilled and gratified and realize that none of this could be accomplished without the continuing assistance of our many supporters spread throughout the United Church of Christ.

OCWM GIVING 1996

	1/1-3/31/96	1996	1995
Alabama-Tennessee Association			
Alpine, King's Chapel	150.00	150.00	156.60
Athens, Trinity Congregational	0.00	0.00	300.00
Belvidere, 1st United Church	0.00	0.00	6,072.75
Birmingham, 1st Congregational	1,400.00	1,400.00	4,500.00
Birmingham, Pilgrim	1,350.00	1,350.00	4,809.00
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	2,764.17	2,764.17	10,984.25
Chattanooga, Sheares Memorial	0.00	0.00	358.00
Crossville, United	1,341.50	1,341.50	3,330.00
Crossville, United UCWF	0.00	0.00	0.00

Cullman, St. John's	1,350.00	1,350.00	8,600.00
Deer Lodge, Congregational	300.00	300.00	1,200.00
Fairfield Glade, Community Church	925.00	925.00	3,700.00
Garden City, Congregational Christian	0.00	0.00	462.00
Hanceville, Mountain Grove	0.00	0.00	100.00
Huntsville, United Church	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
Knoxville, Church of the Savior	0.00	0.00	2,890.00
Marion, 1st Congregational	10.00	10.00	0.00
Montgomery, 1st	3,800.00	3,800.00	3,800.00
Nashville, 1st United	1,666.68	1,666.68	6,000.00
Nashville, Brookmeade	242.25	242.25	900.00
Nashville, Howard	0.00	0.00	600.00
Pleasant Hill, Community	4,251.00	4,251.00	17,027.38
Sweetwater, 1st	0.00	0.00	250.00
Talladega, 1st Congregational	0.00	0.00	200.00
Tougaloo, Union UCC	0.00	0.00	0.00
Waverly, United Community Church	0.00	0.00	260.00
	19,540.60	19,540.60	82,634.15

East Alabama-West Georgia

Alexander City, First	0.00	0.00	0.00
Columbus, United	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadeville, Elder	0.00	0.00	0.00
East Tallassee, Congregational Christian	0.00	0.00	0.00
Five Points, State Line	0.00	0.00	0.00
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove	0.00	0.00	848.00
LaGrange, Hillside	0.00	0.00	0.00
LaGrange, United	87.00	87.00	224.00
Lanett, Congregational Christian	705.00	705.00	3,000.00
Phenix City, Russell Woods	0.00	0.00	1,140.00
Pine Mountain, Oak Grove	0.00	0.00	0.00
Roanoke, Antioch	0.00	0.00	570.00
Roanoke, Bethany	0.00	0.00	142.00
Roanoke, New Hope	570.00	570.00	570.00
Roanoke, North Main	380.00	380.00	570.00
Roanoke, Rock Stand	0.00	0.00	0.00
Valley, Pine Forest	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wadley, Corinth Christian	0.00	0.00	475.00
Woodbury, Jones Chapel	494.00	494.00	2,736.00
	2,236.00	2,236.00	13,616.00

Georgia-South Carolina

Atlanta, Center Congregational	0.00	0.00	210.00
Atlanta, Central	7,500.00	7,500.00	26,776.20
Atlanta, Central Congregational Women	0.00	0.00	200.00
Atlanta, First Church	0.00	0.00	11,000.00

Atlanta, Good Shepherd	0.00	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, Rush	0.00	0.00	500.00
Beachton, Evergreen Congregational	0.00	0.00	990.00
Charleston, Circular	1,000.00	1,000.00	3,333.30
Charleston, Plymouth	0.00	0.00	1,350.00
Columbia, Covenant UCC	50.00	50.00	0.00
Demorest, Federated	0.00	0.00	238.42
GA-SC Association	0.00	0.00	2,200.00
Jonesboro, Trinity	50.00	50.00	7,200.00
Marietta, Amistad	0.00	0.00	0.00
Marietta, Pilgrimage	1,746.00	1,746.00	5,753.00
Midway, Congregational Church	200.00	200.00	600.00
Savannah, First	400.00	400.00	1,000.00
Thomasville, Bethany Congregational	0.00	0.00	300.00
	10,946.00	10,946.00	52,039.12

South Alabama-N.W. Florida

Andalusia, Antioch	0.00	0.00	1,400.00
Andalusia, First Congregational Church	110.00	110.00	550.00
Baker, Good Hope	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baker, Pyron	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bonifay, New Effort	0.00	0.00	0.00
Brantley, Indian Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00
Brantley, Liberty Congregational	100.00	100.00	400.00
Clio, New Hope	0.00	0.00	50.00
	210.00	210.00	1,505.00

1997 Proposed Budgets for the Southeast Conference

	1995 Actual	1996 Revised	1996 Proposed
INCOME			
OCWM Support	149,794	170,000	165,000
Church Development	1,000	20,000	20,000
Investment Income	28,673	25,000	28,000
Annual Meeting	20,899	21,000	20,000
Reimbursement	524	1,000	0
Association Secretarial Support	4,800	5,000	5,000
UCBHM/Staff Support	21,000	0	0
Miscellaneous	2,247	0	3,000
TOTAL INCOME	228,937	242,000	241,000

EXPENSES

Missions Beyond the Conference:

OCWM National	13,000	16,000	16,000
General Synod	3,690	1,000	1,000
Conference Minister Council	530	1,000	1,000
TOTAL	17,220	18,000	18,000

Missions Within Conference:

Church Development	174	100	100
Resource Materials	329	600	600
SE News Packets	6,836	4,000	4,000
Annual Meeting	1,000	1,000	1,000
Staff Travel	11,854	10,000	10,000

Commissions:

Church & Ministry	1,263	500	500
Social Justice	67	500	500
Christian Education	475	300	300
Outreach/Stewardship	802	400	400
Church Development	1,383	300	300
Women	204	500	500
Program Fund	562	1,700	1,700
Church Projects	18,551	20,000	20,000
TOTAL	43,050	39,900	39,900

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION, OPERATIONS:

Board of Directors	7,265	4,000	4,000
Executive Committee	305	100	100
Personnel Committee	0	600	600
Finance Committee	134	200	200
Nominating Committee	247	200	200
Annual Meeting	485	750	750
Search Process	0	2,500	2,500
TOTAL	8,436	8,350	8,350

OFFICE OPERATION:

Rent	8,913	9,000	9,000
Telephone	9,678	9,400	9,400
Office Supplies	2,748	3,000	3,000
Postage	4,756	4,000	4,000
Equipment Lease	0	0	0
Equipment Maintenance	2,124	2,000	2,000
Auditors	0	7,000	7,000
Dues & Fees	420	300	300
Workers' Compensation	874	900	900
Liability Insurance	868	1,300	1,300
TOTAL	30,279	36,900	36,900

Personnel	137,947	138,000	137,000
Miscellaneous	289	850	850
TOTAL EXPENSES	237,221	242,000	241,000

RESOLUTION ON AMENDMENTS TO UCC CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Whereas, the 20th General Synod adopted recommended changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ intended to implement the mutual recognition and reconciliation of the ordained ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);

Whereas, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) voted affirmatively on this action in October 1995;

Whereas, the amendments to the Constitution require ratification by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the conferences before the next regular meeting of the General Synod;

Therefore, the Southeast Conference, meeting at Sewanee, Tennessee on June 1, 1996, ratifies the amendments to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ adopted by the 20th General Synod which implement the recognition and reconciliation of ordained ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Following is the text to be inserted in the Constitution of the UCC:

Article VI: Recognition and Reconciliation of the Ordained Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

28. The United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recognize the ordained ministries of the other church to be efficacious ministries of grace within that church and these ministries to be valid and full ministries of the one Church of Jesus Christ.

29. The ordained ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are reconciled. An Ordained Minister with ordained ministerial standing in one church may

function, whenever invited, and as established procedures permit, as an ordained minister to the other.

30. The designations “Ordained Ministerial Partner” and “ordained ministerial partner standing” manifest the corporate and individual nature of the recognition and reconciliation of the ordained ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

31. Each member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who holds ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the United Church of Christ.

32. Each member of the United Church of Christ who holds ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

33. Ordained ministerial partner standing is authorization granted to an Ordained Minister with ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who has a call to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. This authorization assumes knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. Ordained ministerial partner standing provides ongoing ecclesiastical authorization to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

13. An Association or Conference of the United Church of Christ may, under such provisions as it deems wise, ... except that no ordained minister who has full standing **or ordained ministerial partner standing** in the United Church of Christ shall be ineligible.

18. The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls certain of its members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the church for which ecclesiastical authorization is required. Recognizing God’s call, the ecclesiastical authorization is granted by an Association through the rite of ordination, through commissioning, licensing, granting **either**

ordained ministerial standing or **ordained ministerial partner standing** and other acts of authorization.

19. Ordination is ... By this rite ordained ministerial standing **and status as an Ordained Ministerial Partner** is conferred and authorization given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

22. The Call of an Ordained Minister **or Ordained Ministerial Partner** to a Local Church establishes a covenantal relationship among the Ordained Minister **or Ordained Ministerial Partner**, the Local Church, and the United Church of Christ as represented by an Association or a Conference. The Call of an Ordained Minister **or Ordained Ministerial Partner** to other forms of ministry recognized by an Association or Conference of the United Church of Christ establishes a covenantal relationship among the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner, the calling body, the United Church of Christ as represented by an Association or Conference and the Local Church where the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner is a member.

29 **35.** An Association is that body within a Conference of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all Local Churches in a geographical area, all Ordained Ministers holding standing **or Ordained Ministerial Partner** standing therein, all Commissioned Ministers of that Association, and those Licensed Ministers who have been granted voting membership in that Association.

32 **38.** An Association is that body which grants, certifies to, transfers and terminates ordained ministerial standing **or Ordained Ministerial Partner** standing in the United Church of Christ.

35 **41.** When an Association meets, its voting membership includes the lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Association, all Ordained Ministers holding standing **or Ordained Ministerial Partner** standing therein, all Commissioned Ministers of that Association and those Licensed Ministers who have been granted voting membership in that Association.

37 **43.** A Conference is that body of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all Local Churches in a geographical area, all Ordained Ministers holding standing **or Ordained Ministerial Partner standing** in its Associations or in the Conference itself when acting as an

Association, all Commissioned Ministries in its Associations, and those Licensed Ministers who have been granted voting membership in its Associations.

~~44~~ **47.** When a Conference meets, its voting membership includes lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Conference, all Ordained Ministers holding standing **or ordained ministerial partner standing** in its Associations or in the Conference itself when acting as an Association, all Commissioned Ministers in its Associations, and those Licensed Ministers who have been granted voting membership in its Associations.

CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!

Covenant UCC, Columbia, South Carolina has been approved by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries for a One-Year Exploratory Model. The Rev. Nancy Donny, currently acting as organizing pastor, will be the half-time pastor as Covenant further develops its vision of a vibrant, dynamic, creative, growing and faithful community of God. The covenant between UCBHM and Covenant UCC begins the first of July, 1996. Remember this growing congregation in your visioning prayers, for in this way we can all share in the commitment to new church growth!

Annual Meeting Program and Agenda: ***"Room at God's Table for All Children"***

FRIDAY, May 31

2:00 p.m.	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	
5:00-9:00	PRE-REGISTRATION and ROOM CHECK-IN	
	Lobby at Craven Hall	
6:00	DINNER	
7:00	CALL TO ORDER	
	Convening Prayer	Richard Sales
	Introductions	Annie W. Neal
	Greetings from the Iowa Conference	Mert Fedderson
	Orientation of Materials/Meetings	Robert Kurtz
	Notice to give Memorials to Milton	
	Adoption of Agenda	Richard Sales
	Appointment of Amenities Mover	

7:45 OPENING WORSHIP
The Rev. F. Allison Phillips, Keynoter General Secretary, American
Missionary Association

SATURDAY, June 1

7:00 a.m.	BREAKFAST	
8:00	MEMORIAL SERVICE	Milton Hurst
8:30	FIRST BUSINESS SESSION	
	Call to Order & Greetings	Richard Sales
	Acknowledgment of Churches Present	Registrar
8:45	CANDIDATE FOR CONFERENCE MINISTER	
	Introduction	Milton Hurst & Barbara Everett
	Discussion	
	Election	
9:45	BREAK	
10:00	WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION	
	The Rev. Mary Miller Brueggemann, Keynoter, Board of Directors, Office of Communication, UCC Transition Coordinating Committee, UCC	
11:00	BUSINESS CONTINUES	
	Structures	Richard Sales
	Nomination Committee	Susan Ewing
	Election	
	Finance Committee	Steven Parker
	Adoption of 1997 Budget	
11:30	LUNCH	
12:45	RECONVENT	
1:00	BUSINESS CONTINUES	
	Recognition of Visitors/Special Guests	Edwin Mehlhaff
	Introduction of New Ministers	
	Recognition of Ministerial Service	Edwin Mehlhaff & James Myers
	Ratification of Changes to UCC Constitution	
	Words & Challenge from Interim Conference Minister	
	Tribute to Rev. Edwin Mehlhaff	
2:45	BREAK	
3:00	RITUAL OF HERITAGE	
	Robert Kurtz, Richard Sales, Conference Minister	
	INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS/CONFERENCE	
	CENTER REPORT	
	Vote on Allen Retreat Center	
5:30	PICNIC & ENTERTAINMENT	

SUNDAY, June 2

8:00 a.m. BREAKFAST

9:00	CONCLUDING BUSINESS SESSION	
	Amenities Resolution	
	Handing Over	
	Adjournment	
9:45	WORKSHOPS	
	Christian Education	Louise Sallstrom
	Over Covenantal Polity – Past, Present & Future	
		Dan Rosemergy
	Issues Challenging Women in the Church Today	
		Mary Miller
		Brueggemann
		Dr. F. Allison
		Phillips
	Racism Today	
	Small Church Concerns	
10:45	BREAK	
11:00	CONCLUDING WORSHIP	
12:00	LUNCH	
12:45	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	

Voices & Voices

3rd National Meeting of UCC Women

June 27-30, 1996, Boston, Massachusetts!

This will be a high-energy event for women. We hope many of you have registered for this meeting already. Talk it up at the Annual Meeting and find out who else is going. If you need a registration form call the Conference Office.

National Youth Event '96

July 25-29, Columbia, SC

A mega-event with space for 3,700 persons. Millard Fuller (Habitat for Humanity) will be a keynoter. There will be music, worship, Bible study, recreation facilities, the "NYE Carnival," off-site voluntary mission projects and over 50 workshops. We hope you are planning to take the youth from your church. If you do not have enough for a minimum group size (4 youth & 2 adults) check with other churches and combine your youth. Let Elizabeth Clement, our Conference Youth Coordinator, know your are

going (or want to go). Liz's address is 382-A Angier Avenue N.E., Atlanta, GA 30312; Phone: 404/876-3217.

SEC Women's Retreat

September 20-22, 1996

"For Such a Time as This" is the theme for this year's Women's Retreat. Rev. Linda Petrucelli, Secretary for the Global Sharing of Resources, UCBWM, is keynoter. Mark the dates on your calendar NOW! Let's have the best sharing with the most women in the Southeast Conference ever!

GA/SC Association ...

Exciting Special Futuring Event

WHEN: August 9-10, 1996

WHERE: Lake Laurel Lodge, near Milledgeville, GA.

WHO: Pastor, one lay person, one youth, from each Association church.

COST: Others who wish to attend pay their own costs.

LEADER: Special guest leader will be the new Conference Minister

This event will be the shaping of the Association's future programming and style of being. Your input is needed. We want each local church to provide their insights and requests as to the Association's purpose and programs. The more churches represented, the more likely we'll have an Association that meets a broader set of needs as represented by the churches. Unless we know your need, we will be unable to provide event that will assist your local church to meet its mission mandate(s). To love the church is to be at this meeting.

"Called to Care" Workshop

The Program Committee of the Southeast Conference chaired by Annie W. Neal and comprised of all the Commission chairpersons, is sponsoring a special workshop to introduce the "Called to Care" resource

materials of the United Church of Christ to local congregational representatives. The focus is organizing your local church for care giving.

The event will be held Saturday, May 25, 1996 at Central Congregational Church UCC, 2676 Clairmont Road, Atlanta, GA beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending with worship/communion at 3:30 p.m. The Rev. Geoffrey Black of the Office for Church Life and Leadership will be leading the event. We of the Program Committee encourage all churches in the Southeast Conference to take advantage of this workshop. Each church has already received a mailing from the Conference Office complete with agenda. Ask your pastor or call the Conference Office at (404) 607-1993 for more information.

Black Church Fire Bombings

An Update

Here is a list compiled by the Center for Democratic Renewal, of the black church fire bombings between January 1, 1995 and March 1, 1996:

January 13, 1995, Macedonia Baptist Church, Crockett County, TN

January 13, 1995, Johnson Grove Baptist Church, Madison County, TN

January 29, 1995, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Columbia, TN

January 29, 1995, Canaan African Methodist Episcopal Church, Columbia, TN

January 31, 1995, Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Bolivar, TN

June 1995, St. Paul AME Church, Dallas, GA

June 20, 1995, Mount Zion AME Church, Greeleyville, SC

June 21, 1995, Macedonia Baptist Church, Bloomville, SC

October 14, 1995, Zion Chapel AME, Sun, LA

December 22, 1995, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Boligee, AL

December 22, 1995, Jerusalem Baptist Church, Boligee, AL

December 31, 1995, Salem Baptist Church, Fruitland, TN

January 8, 1996, Inner City Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN

January 11, 1996, Little Zion Baptist Church, Boligee, AL

January 11, 1996, Mount Zoar Baptist Church, Boligee, AL

January 27, 1996, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Spring, TX

February 1, 1996, St. Paul's Free Baptist Church, Baker, LA

February 1, 1996, The Sweet Home Baptist Church, Zachary, LA

February 1, 1996, Thomas Chapel Benevolent Society, Zachary, LA
 February 21, 1996, Glorious Church of God in Christ, Richmond, VA
 February 29, 1996, Liberty Baptist Church, Tyler, AL

A letter is being drafted for state and Federal officials, including the President, regarding the burning of churches calling for a serious and responsible investigation. Questions: call Lawton Higgs at 205/491-3430 or Robert Montgomery at 205/326-6821.

Slate of Nominations, 1996

POSITIONS OFFICES

Moderator

Vice Moderator

Secretary

Treasurer

Past Moderator

Members-at-Large

Association Representatives

AL/TN

EAL/WGA

GA/SC

SAL/NWFL

CONTINUING

Ms. Susan Ewing, '97

Mr. David Speno, '97

Rev. Richard Sales, '97

Ms. Louise Cox, '97

Ms. Elizabeth Clement, '97

Ms. Paula Van Natta, '97

Mr. Don Harmon, '97

Mr. Steven Parker, '97

Mr. Marvin Brand, '97

NOMINEES

Dr. Annie Neal

Mr. Jimmy Pilkington

Rev. Rodney Franklin, '97

Ms. Kimberly Hunt, '97

Rev. J. T. Lowery, '97

Mr. Jimmy Pilkington, '97

Ms. Michele Brathwaite, '97

COMMISSIONS

Christian Education

Ms. Louise Sallstrom*, '97

Rev. Harry Manon, '97

Ms. Dyann Wilkerson, '96

Church & Ministry

Rev. James L. Myers*, '97

Rev. Maureen Jenci-Shelton, '97

Rev. Jack Yates, '96

Church Development
and Evangelism

Rev. Edward Schneider*, '97

Ms. Jeanie Harry, '97

Rev. Flora Wilson-Bridges, '96

Social Justice

Rev. Dorothy Gager*, '97

Rev. Carol Jean Miller, '97

Rev. Ted Braun, '96

Stewardship/OCWM

Rev. Robert Kurtz*, '97

Mr. Steven Parker, '96

Ms. Lenda Sherrell, '96

Women in Society

Rev. Joyce Myers Brown*, '97

Ms. Betty Burroughs Lloyd, '97
Ms. Jean Reid, '96

COMMITTEES

Heritage Committee Ms. Shirley Bowen*, '97
 Ms. Clara Lowe, '97
Nominating Committee Ms. Vanessa Robbs, '96
 Rev. Wayde Washburn, '96

(* signifies chairperson)

GENERAL SYNOD

Delegates	Ms. Debbie Douglas, '97	<u>Rev. Dorothy Gager, '99</u>
	Rev. Wayde Washburn, '97	<u>Mr. Gary Myers, '99</u>
Alternates	Ms. Louise Cox, '97	<u>Rev. Dan Rosemergy, '97</u>
	<u>Rev. Nancy Donny, '99</u>	<u>Mr. Bill Steffan, '99</u>

MEET YOUR NOMINEES

Moderator

Dr. Annie W. Neal, Ph.D.

Professionally, Dr. Neal is Associate Vice President for Educational Development and Support Services at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN. An associate member of Howard Congregational UCC, Nashville; member of Plymouth Congregational UCC, Washington, DC; Dr. Neal is active on all levels of church life. National: first chairperson of the new instrumentality Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, and stage parliamentarian for the last two General Synods, currently corporate member, UCBHM. Conference: currently SEC Vice Moderator; chairperson, Program Planning Committee. Association: currently Nominating Committee chairperson for Alabama-Tennessee Association. Local: currently serving as facilitator of the Women's Fellowship. In her personal life Annie Neal is also a loving wife, mother, and grandmother!

Vice Moderator

Mr. Jimmy Pilkington

Professionally, Jimmy and his wife Jeanie own and operate Jimmy Restaurant at 120 Main Street in LaGrange, GA. Jimmy and Jeanie (Paula J.) have been married for 30 years and have a married daughter, Paula Wright, and a son, Jonathan, who is a senior this year. Local: As an active

member of LaGrange United, Jimmy has taught Sunday School, served on the Board of Trustees and is currently co-chair of the Board of Deacons, as well as Choir Director. Association: Has served as president of Men's Fellowship, vice moderator, and is currently moderator of the East Alabama/West Georgia Association. His favorite position in the Association is serving with Coleman Meadows and others as Chief Cook at the Mini-Camps, a position he has held for 15 years. Of Mini-Camp, Jimmy says, "If one life can be touched and even just one young person comes to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior then all the work and expense is time and money well spent." Conference: currently serves on Board of Directors as Association representative.

At-Large Board Member

Rev. Dr. Rodney Franklin

Dr. Franklin is currently serving as pastor of First Congregational Christian Church, UCC, Birmingham, Alabama. He is also a member of the Church Development Committee, Alabama-Tennessee Association. Rodney's experience prior to the SEC include: (Ohio) member of Missionary Team, 1992-93; member, Western Reserve Association Christian Education Committee, '92; Church and Congregational Life, '91-'92; Task Force for African-American Males – Ohio Council of Churches. Congress of National Black Churches, National Fellowship Program for Black Pastors, '88-'89; United Black Christians (UCC), '91-present; Steward, World Council of Churches, World Conference on Mission and Evangelism, 1989, San Antonio, Texas.

At-Large Board Member

Ms. Kimberly (Kim) Hunt

Professionally, Ms. Hunt has been a commercial painter for about 10 years, working with her father in his business. She has also three years of college at the University of Pennsylvania under her belt as a religious major. Kim hails from Everett, Massachusetts, near Boston. She came to the Southeast Conference in the fall to marry the Rev. John Mingus (Pilgrim, Chattanooga). Her goal is to go to nursing school, she loves to garden, sings in the choir, has 2 cats and is looking forward to serving on the

board. Kim is retaining her name, though married, so her mail should be addressed: Ms. Kimberly Hunt

General Synod – Alternate 1997

Rev. Dr. Daniel (Dan) Rosemergy

The Rev. Dr. Rosemergy is in his fourteenth year as pastor of Brookmeade Congregational Church, UCC, Nashville. Brookmeade is an Open and Affirming, inclusive, diverse community committed to spiritual growth and the struggle for peace and social justice in our lives and society. It is also a teaching parish for Vanderbilt Divinity School students. (Dan teaches UCC History and Polity course there as adjunct faculty member)

On the Conference level, Dan has most recently been a member of the Conference Structure Committee ('94) and is currently a member of the Church and Ministry Commission. In the Alabama-Tennessee Association, he served as moderator ('85-'87) and is currently Church and Ministry Committee chairperson.

Dan's activities in the Nashville community: helped found the Nashville Peace and Justice Center, serving as first chair of its Board of Directors; member, Steering Committee of Interfaith AIDS Ministry of Middle Tennessee; past president of Nashville Chapter of United Nations Association; member of '92 Leadership Nashville class; currently vice chair/spokesperson for Interfaith Alliance of Middle Tennessee; is religious spokesperson for CDC Preventative Marketing Initiatives (HIV prevention program).

General Synod – Delegate 1999

Rev. Dorothy Gager

Professionally, the Rev. Dorothy Gager serves as chaplain for an alcohol and drug treatment program. She is both an ordained clergy in the UCC and also a licensed clinical social worker. Dorothy was born in Chattanooga and was a member of Pilgrim Congregational Church, where three previous members of her family had also been active members. In 1969 she went to Nashville and is now a member of Howard UCC. On the Conference level, Dorothy has chaired the SEC Commission on Christian Social Justice for several years and as such, serves on the Board of Directors.

General Synod – Delegate 1999

Mr. Gary Myers

Mr. Myers is a graduate of Tuskegee University, majoring in business. Presently employed in retail management by Service Merchandise, he is married to Cynthia Louise Myers, and they have a son, Eric, who is 16 years old. Gary made the decision to go into ministry 4 or 5 years ago and is presently pursuing his Master of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, AL. He has "In Care" status with the Alabama-Tennessee Association. An avid reader, Gary also loves to watch documentaries. At his home church, Birmingham First Church, he is superintendent of the Sunday School, a member of the Board of Christian Education and Intergenerational Progressive Christians and has served as liturgist as well as preached on several occasions. Gary is the son of the Rev. James and Sara Myers—James is chairperson of the SEC Church and Ministry Commission.

General Synod – Alternate 1999

Rev. Nancy Donny

The Rev. Nancy Donny is organizing pastor at our Fellowship Church in Columbia, S.C., Covenant UCC. She is a graduate of Yale Divinity School. Nancy teaches at a middle school. She is a single parent with four children (3 boys, 1 girl) ranging in age from 8-14 years. Nancy is a mature and skilled person. Although a UCC pastor with standing in the Georgia-South Carolina Association, she has served three Methodist churches in South Carolina in a variety of roles: pastor, associate pastor, music minister; youth director. Nancy has a bubbly personality which is undergirded by a scholarly mind.

General Synod – Alternate 1999

Mr. Bill Steffan

Mr. Steffan is a member of Center Church in Atlanta, GA. In the Association, Bill serves on the Church and Ministry Committee of the Georgia-South Carolina Association.

NETWORK FOR UCC CHURCH MUSICIANS!

A United Church of Christ musicians' network is being formed by the Board for Homeland Ministries. It will have a quarterly newsletter entitled *A capella* to carry its news to all members. The remainder of this article is composed from information shared in the first edition of *A capella*, editor, Arthur G. Clyde. The goals of the network are: 1) to foster communication, dialog, and sharing of ideas among all those engaged in music ministry; 2) to provide educational resources and opportunities that address musical issues and needs in various church settings; 3) to promote the significance of music in the ministry of the church and the revitalization of worship in the UCC.

The music department of The Pilgrim Press announces publication of its first collection of anthems for church choirs—*The New Century Anthem Series*. Texts were selected from the hymnal—an exciting variety of musical styles comes from the settings of these words by many composers some of whom are: Emma Lou Diemer, Sally Ann Morris, Verne de la Pena, Nylea L. Butler-Moore, David Hurd, Lee Dengler and Jeffrey Radford.

"Who Stole the AMENS?" is a wonderful article by Arthur G. Clyde. It speaks of the history of "Amen" and the fact that originally they are most properly used at the end of hymns which end in prayer and praise. *The New Century Hymnal, Accompanist Edition*, provides plagal cadence amens, so although the amen may not appear in the singer edition, it can easily be added for those who wish to use it.

Three other articles appear in this edition: "A Note from the Editor;" "In Our Midst—Trainers for *The New Century Hymnal*;" "Reflections on Introducing and Dedicating *The New Century Hymnal*," by Ann Graves. In addition there is a musicians' network registration form included, which is in the Conference Office and available for any who wish to join.

Our Make A Difference Campaign Results to Date

Basic Goal--\$150,000

Challenge Goal--\$250,000

Actual--\$279,250

The SEC has been receipted with \$3,700. We should receive over \$100,000 in all. Monies received from Make A Difference will be disbursed as follows:

Caring for Clergy Funds (32.5%):

- *Support for those preparing for the ministry
 - 69% UCC seminarians
 - 10% post-seminary UCC Ph.D. candidates
 - 5% seminarians of overseas partner churches
 - 5% post-seminary health administration training
 - 4% international seminarians
 - 4% gatherings of UCC seminarians
 - 3% training for bi-vocational and licensed ministry
- *Ongoing nurture of pastors, educators, administrators
 - 48% continuing education
 - 47% personal and vocational crisis
 - 5% continuing education: partner churches

Caring for Church Funds (35% of monies for national and global needs):

- *54.9% advance church site purchases
- *18.0% revolving loan fund for church renovation
- *5.7% renovation of Native American churches/parsonages
- *21.4% support of pastoral leaders of new/renewing churches (endowment)

Caring for Community Funds (32.5%) shall be used to establish an endowment called the Genesis Fund, with half designated for national ministry and half for global settings.

Available income from the Genesis Fund will be used as follows:

- 33.3% environmental stewardship
- 33.3% rights and freedom for all persons
- 33.3% fair use of economic resources

All endowments shall be used, managed and invested by the United Church Foundation, Inc.

CHURCH AND PEOPLE NOTES:

Around the Conference

Church News:

Fairfield Glade Community Church has called the Rev. Dale Marshall, who will begin his ministry on August 18th. Welcome to Dale and his family!

The Rev. Dr. Susan Newman has resigned as senior pastor of Atlanta, First Congregational.

The Rev. Clifton Scott is retiring as of June 1st. He is currently pastor of Congregational Morgan County Parish in Deer Lodge, Tennessee.

In Search of Pastoral Leadership:

Atlanta, GA, Central Congregational UCC

Atlanta, GA, First Congregational UCC

Belvidere, TN, First United Church, UCC

Cullman, AL, St. John's United (associate pastor)

Jonesboro, GA, Trinity United Church

Pine Mountain, GA, Oak Grove Congregational Christian

LaFayette, AL, Pleasant Grove Congregational Christian

Waverly, TN, United Community Church

Coming Events & Celebrations

Karl and Jan Whiteman are missionaries, effective June 1, 1996 for 3 years. They will be serving for the UCBWM in the Marshall Islands/Micronesia. Congratulations!

Dr. Paul Sherry, President, UCC, will be featured at Pilgrim Congregational, Birmingham, AL, on Sunday, June 23, 1996, 10:00 a.m., preaching. There will be a noon luncheon following. Make reservations for the luncheon with Pilgrim Congregational, (205) 879-1624. There will also be a 1:30 p.m. open forum.

The Rev. Dr. Susan Newman has been named to a Scripture Project committee, under the auspices of the Board for Homeland Ministries. This is a committee of 8 persons who will meet twice a year from 1996-1998 in Cleveland to provide a foundation paper of scripture and education in the United Church of Christ. Congratulations, Susan!

Brookmeade Congregational Church in Nashville has been selected by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries as a field test site for the

new sexuality education resource *Our Whole Lives* (for junior high youth). Allison DeHart (chair of Brookmeade Board of Deacons) will be trained as teacher/trainer at the Briarwood Conference Center in Dallas, Texas May 16-20. The 30 session will be held during fall '96 and winter '97 at Brookmeade and will be open to youth from the three Nashville-area UCC congregations.

Brookmeade will also be one of the 100 congregations participating in the study on "Spiritual Healing" and "The Healing Church" endorsed by the UCBHM division of the AMA (health programs); and will be conducted by the Rev. Bobbie McKay, Ph.D., an ordained clergywoman in the UCC and also a licensed clinical psychologist. She will be visiting Brookmeade the weekend of August 25-26, 1996.

Prayers and Concerns:

Rev. Joe Brown, chairperson, Church & Ministry Committee, South Alabama/Northwest Florida Association, during his continued treatment.

Jim Courtney, past moderator of South Alabama/Northwest Florida, recovering from a heart attack.

Rev. Jim Walker, minister of music, St. John's United Church, Cullman, recovering well from surgery on his knee April 23.

Ms. Yubenia Prigmore, immediate past chair of the SEC Christian Education Commission, had surgery in Athens, TN, April 26. She is doing well and all looks good.

Our Sympathy is Extended to ...

Virginia Worth, whose husband, Howard, died in early March. Howard and Virginia have been living in Pleasant Hill during retirement years.

James Mason and family, whose mother died March 6th. She was a charter member of the Langdale Christian Church.

Mary S. Jackson, whose husband, Bill, passed away March 8. Dr. Jackson was a member of First Congregational Church, Atlanta for over 30 years, where he served as trustee. He also served at the Conference level on the Personnel Committee ...

Karl Whiteman and family, whose mother, Leanore Whiteman, died at home in Sebring, FL March 11. Leanore was an active member of Emmanuel UCC in Sebring.

Jim Courtney and family on the sudden death of his brother, Paul, March 23.

Curtis Schumacher died April 9, 1996 at Wharton Nursing Home, Uplands, Pleasant Hill, TN. Dr. Schumacher was 95 years old and had been very active in church development and fund raising for many years.

Rev. John Charles Mickle died March 15, 1996. Rev. Mickle served as pastor/co-pastor in various churches of the UCC in California, Tennessee, Ohio and other states. He was a great disciple of Martin Luther King and a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Rev. Emilie Pitcock died April 6 in Glasgow, Kentucky. Emilie served in the Southeast Conference at the Conference Office and in social work.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR, 1996

MAY

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 17-18 – Sat. | Uplands Board meeting & 75 year Celebration |
| 19 – Sun. | Ed preaches, Cullman, St. John's United |
| 25 – Sat. | "Called to Care" training at Central Congregational, Atlanta, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
GA/SC Church & Ministry Committee meeting, Atlanta, Center Church, 9 a.m. |
| 27 – Mon. | Memorial Day – OFFICE CLOSED |
| 31 – Fri. | SEC Board of Directors meeting, Sewanee, TN, University of the South |
| 31-June 2 | Southeast Conference Annual Meeting, Sewanee, TN, University of the South |

JUNE

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 2 – Sun. | SEC Board of Directors meeting, Sewanee (after Annual Meeting) |
| 2-8 – Sun.-Sat. | Iowa-Southeast Partnership Work Camp, Montour, IA |
| 7-9 – Fri.-Sun. | Iowa Conference Annual Meeting, Grinnell, IA |
| 14 – Fri. | Flag Day |
| 23 – Sun. | Paul Sherry, UCC President, preaches at Birmingham, Pilgrim Congregational – Lunch and conversation after worship |
| 25 – Tues. | 39th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ |
| 27-30 – Th.-Su. | Third National Meeting of UCC Women, Boston, MA |

JULY

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 4- Thur. | Independence Day – OFFICE CLOSED |
| 25-29 – Th.-Mo. | National Youth Event, Columbia, SC |

AUGUST

17 – Sat. GA/SC Church & Ministry Committee meeting, Atlanta, Center Church

SEPTEMBER

2 – Mon. Labor Day – OFFICE CLOSED

6-7 – Fri.-Sat. AL/TN Association meeting – Fairfield Glade, TN – Community Church

14 – Sat. GA/SC Association meeting – Charleston, SC – Plymouth Congregational
Rosh Hashanah

20-22 – Fr.-Su. Southeast Conference Women's Retreat, Shocco Springs, Talladega, AL

22 – Sun. American Indian Ministry Sunday

23 – Mon. Yom Kippur

29-Oct. 5 Christian Education Week

OCTOBER

6 – Sun. Neighbors in Need All-Church Offering World Communion Sunday

13 – Sun. Laity Sunday

14 – Mon. Indigenous People's Day; Columbus Day

19 – Sat. EAL/WGA Association Meeting, Tallassee, AL

24 – Thur. United Nations Day

27 – Sun. Daylight Saving Time ends

31 – Thur. Reformation Day

NOVEMBER

1 – Fri. All Saints' Day

5 – Tues. Election Day

10 – Sun. Stewardship Sunday

11 – Mon. Veterans Day

16 – Sat. GA/SC Church & Ministry Committee meeting, Atlanta, Center Church

24 – Sun. Hunger Action Fund (suggested offering date)

28 – Thur. Thanksgiving Day – OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER

6 – Fri. First Day of Hanukkah

10 – Tues. Human Rights Day

24 – Tues. Christmas Eve

25 – Wed. Christmas Day – OFFICE CLOSED

31 – Tues. New Year's Eve

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Published by the Southeast Conference

United Church of Christ

Interim Conference Minister, Ed Mehlhaff

Office Administrator, Nan Wright

Moderator, Richard Sales

Vice Moderator, Annie Neal

Secretary, Susan Ewing

Treasurer, David Speno

Alabama-Tennessee Association Moderator, Ed Schneider

East Alabama-West Georgia Association Moderator, Jimmy Pilkington

Georgia-South Carolina Association Moderator, Larry Calbert

South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association Moderator, Marvin Brand

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The preceding was a transcription from the original publication, except for photographs and associated captions, an advertisement for the American Missionary Association division of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries on page 3, an advertisement for a national UCC teleconference and a registration form for the Conference Annual Meeting on page 12, driving directions to the University of the South campus on page 13, and an advertisement for the Angel Festival Atlanta '96, a poem by Henry Matthew Ward, and an essay, "Lessons From Geese," on page 15. Neither the original nor the transcription are copyrighted or have rights reserved; they are in

the public domain for free use. Copies of the original may be obtained from the Congregational Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

This transcription was recorded on October 25 and 26, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

